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U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
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RRR000735

RE: Comments on the drafts of Repository Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) & Nevada Rail Corridor/ Alignment Environmental Impact Statement

I would like to respond to these drafts introduced by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by focusing on the importance of developing an alternative to using the Yucca Mountain site as a location for a waste repository, in hopes of influencing both Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).

- 1 [As you might be aware, the Yucca Mountain site is of great importance to the cultural integrity of the Timbisha and Western Shoshone tribes. The SEIS fails to mention their ongoing religious usage of the site, as well as the legal issues surrounding impedance on the territory of the Western Shoshone nation, which have been described in the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley and the United Nation's Committee to End Racial Discrimination.]
- 2 [Beyond this, and as a more general statement, the use of nuclear repositories such as the one proposed is irresponsible and unpractical with respects to public opinion and our current state of technologies.]

People in the U.S. (and the rest of the world) are growing more and more conscious of the long-term effects we impose on our environment. Consider the global warming issue. This has been essentially ignored over the years by the public, but now has gained much corporate and political interest as of late. People want (and will vote for) measures that are forward-thinking, and this includes intelligent nuclear waste disposal.

Storing waste in a far away and ignored repository is not forward-thinking; we should instead focus on methods of on-site storage where waste can be monitored, studied, and kept securely contained. Findings in the future will bring better storage methods (studies are finding that the current means may be prone to degradation much quicker than expected) and new methods of handling the long-term components in waste. These advancements and others will be reached more quickly and easily with the use of localized on-site storage. Furthermore, other problems associated with using repositories—such as dangerous waste transportation—would be eliminated.

A nuclear waste repository at the Yucca Mountain site is not a practical solution and will raise more problems than it will solve. I hope that this project is not carried out, and instead that work towards the on-site alternative is pursued.]

Sincerely,



David Thompson